



HEALTH AND SCIENCE

'We want them infected,' Trump HHS appointee said in email pushing to expose infants, kids and teens to Covid to reach 'herd immunity'

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KEY POINTS

Top Trump health department appointees repeatedly discussed pursuing a so-called herd immunity approach to the Covid-19 outbreak this summer, new emails obtained by a House Committee show.

Rep. James Clyburn, chairman of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, which obtained the emails, said the documents demonstrate “a pernicious pattern” of political interference.

Ousted HHS scientific advisor Paul Alexander, who was brought in by long-time Trump ally Michael Caputo, sent the emails around to other HHS officials.

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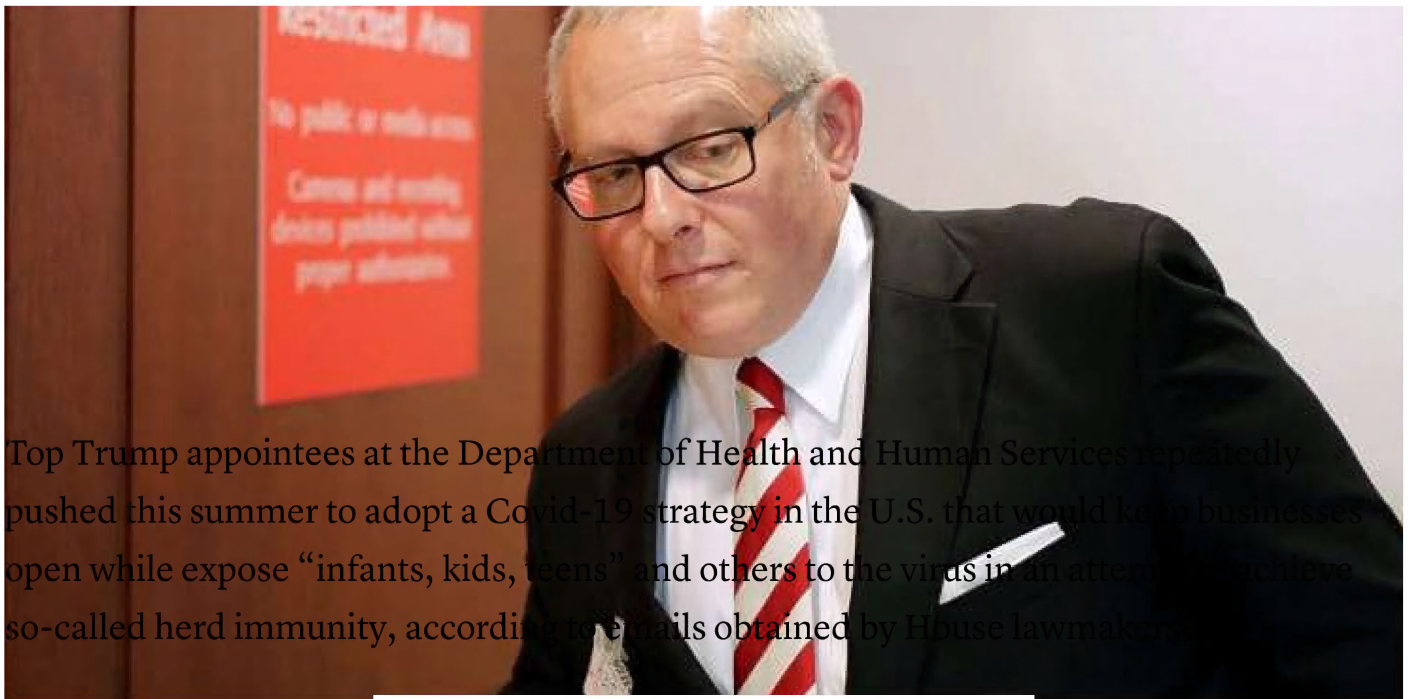
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Top Trump appointees at the Department of Health and Human Services repeatedly pushed this summer to adopt a Covid-19 strategy in the U.S. that would keep businesses open while expose “infants, kids, teens” and others to the virus in an attempt to achieve so-called herd immunity, according to emails obtained by House lawmakers.

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Rep. James Clyburn, chairman of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, which obtained the emails, said the documents demonstrate “a pernicious pattern of political interference by Administration officials.”

The emails surfaced as part of an investigation into political interference by the Trump administration after former HHS scientific advisor Paul Alexander and long-time Trump ally Michael Caputo were accused this summer of meddling with the work of career scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the nation’s leading infectious disease specialist Dr. Anthony Fauci. Alexander was ousted when Caputo departed HHS on medical leave in September.

Alexander wrote [wrote in a July 4](#) email to Caputo and six other HHS communications

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have zero to little risk...so we use them to develop herd...we want them infected...and recovered...with antibodies,” he wrote.

Alexander later brought the proposed strategy to Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn, another email shows.

“It may be that it will be best if we open up and flood the zone and let the kids and young folk get infected as we acutely lock down the elderly and at risk folks” to get to “natural immunity...natural exposure,” [he wrote on July 24](#) to Hahn, Caputo and other HHS officials. Caputo asked Alexander to look further into the idea, further emails show.

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VIDEO 03:35

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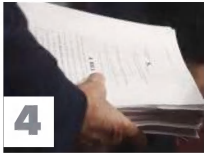
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